

Message Text

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42

ACTION EB-07

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R 111045Z SEP 76

FM AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4996

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMCONSUL SHIRAZ

USINT BAGHDAD

UNCLAS DHAHRAN 1169

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT, ECIN, BEXT, XF

SUBJECT: GULF-WIDE PORTS ORGANIZATION TAKES SHAPE

1. MOHAMMED BUBSHAIT, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR FINANCIAL AFFAIRS, SAUDI GOVERNMENT RAILROAD ORGANIZATION REVIEWED, WITH CONGENOFF, PROGRESS AND PLANS IN FORMATION OF GULF PORT BUREAU (GPB) -- A PERMANENT AGENCY WHICH IS TO LINK PORTS OF GULF TO RESOLVE COMMON PROBLEMS. BUBSHAIT IS TO BE SAG REP AT NEXT MEETING. EARLIER MEETINGS OF GULF OFFICIALS IN DAMMAM, BASRA, AND MANAMA ARE TO LEAD TO OCTOBER 2 MEETING SCHEDULED FOR KUWAIT. PENDING MEETING AGREEMENT IS TO BE SIGNED ESTABLISHING THE GPB. PERMANENT HEADQUARTERS OF THE BUREAU IS TO BE NEAR ENTRANCE TO PORT OF DAMMAM AND ENTIRE COST OF HEADQUARTERS IS TO BE UNDERWRITTEN BY SAG.

2. ACCORDING TO BUBSHAIT, GPB, ONCE ESTABLISHED, WILL BE UNCLASSIFIED

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CHARGED WITH CONSIDERING QUESTIONS AND PROBLEMS OF FOLLOWING

NATURE:

(A) BETTER UTILIZATION OF CAPITAL EQUIPMENT. WHEN CONSIDERING THIS MATTER, GPB WILL LOOK INTO VARIOUS PARTS OF THE GULF PURCHASING HEAVY EQUIPMENT, SUCH AS FLOATING CRANES, AND SOPHISTICATED PORT HANDLING EQUIPMENT WHICH CAN BE MADE AVAILABLE TO ALL MEMBERS OF GPB.

(B) GPB WILL REVIEW PORT EXPANSION PROGRAMS IN THE GULF AND COORDINATE PLANS TO PREVENT OVERBUILDING IN SOME PORTS.

(C) SERVICES AND FREIGHT RATES OF SHIPPING CONFERENCES ARE TO BE REVIEWED AND GPB WILL COORDINATE A COMMON APPROACH TO THE CARRIERS ON THESE QUESTIONS.

(D) GPB WILL ESTABLISH TGBINING PROGRAMS TO UPGRADE SKILLS OF PERSONNEL WORKING IN GULF PORTS.

(E) GPB IS TO ESTABLISH TWO SUB-OFFICES -- ONE AT BASRA AND ONE AT ENTRANCE TO GULF. THESE OFFICES WILL REGISTER THE ARRIVAL OF GENERAL CARGO SHIPS ENTERING THE GULF AND DIRECT THOSE WITH CARGO MANIFESTED FOR THE LEAST-CONGESTED PORT TO CALL THERE BEFORE SAILING ON TO MORE CONGESTED PORTS TO DISCHARGE CARGO.

3. COMMENT: THE REGISTERING OF SHIPS FOR ALL PORTS IMMEDIATELY UPON THEIR ARRIVAL IN THE GULF IS, PERHAPS, THE MOST USEFUL PROJECT PROPOSED FOR GPB TO TACKLE. AT PRESENT, NEWLY-ARRIVED SHIPS MUST SAIL TO EACH PORT THEY WISH TO CALL AT WHILE IN THE GULF AND STAKE OUT PLACES IN THE LINE OF SHIPS WAITING FOR

BERTH. THE GPB PLAN WILL NOT CUT BY MUCH THE LENGTH OF TIME A SHIP WILL BE IN THE GULF BUT IT WILL RID THE SHIP OF THE WASTEFUL NECESSITY OF HAVING TO SAIL AROUND THE GULF JUST TO REGISTER FOR BERTHS AT EACH OF ITS PLANNED PORTS OF CALL.
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